

Docket No. AUS9-2000-0629-US1

**CLAIMS:**

What is claimed is:

1. A method in a network computing system for managing configuration information for a set of components in a network computing system, the method comprising:

storing the configuration information for the set of components in the network computing system to form stored configuration information;

responsive to a power cycle, obtaining current configuration information from the set of components;

comparing the current configuration information with the stored configuration information to form a comparison;

updating the stored configuration information if a difference is present in the comparison.

2. The method of claim 1, wherein the network computing system is a system area network.

3. The method of claim 1, wherein the storing step comprises:

storing the configuration information at a node in the network computing system where the subnet manager resides.

4. The method of claim 1, wherein the storing step comprises:

storing configuration information associated with a component along with the component.

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Docket No. AUS9-2000-0629-US1

5. The method of claim 1, wherein the stored configuration information is stored in one of a non-volatile random access memory, a hard disk drive, and an optical disk.

6. The method of claim 1, wherein the set of components are a set of nodes.

7. The method of claim 1, wherein the set of components are a set of devices within nodes.

8. A method in a network computing system for managing configuration information in the network computing system, the method comprising:

discovering a component at a location on the network computing system;

determining whether the component was previously in the location;

configuring the component using previously stored configuration information for the component if the component was previously in the location; and

configuring the component without the previously stored configuration information.

9. A method in a network computing system for managing configuration information the network computing system, the method comprising:

discovering a component at a location on the network computing system;

determining whether stored configuration information

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Docket No. AUS9-2000-0629-US1

is present at the component;

responsive to the stored configuration information being present at the component, reading the stored configuration information;

configuring the stored configuration information;

determining whether changes to a configuration of the component are present; and

responsive to changes being present, updating the changes to the stored configuration information in the component.

10. The method of claim 9, wherein the updating step comprises:

correcting for conflicts in the configuration of the component using the stored configuration information to form changed configuration information;

saving the changed configuration information at the component.

11. A data processing system comprising:

a bus system;

a communications adapter connected to the bus system;

a memory including a set of instructions connected to the bus system;

a processing unit connected to the bus system, wherein the processing unit executes the set of instructions to store the configuration information for the set of components in the network computing system to form stored configuration information; obtain current configuration information from the set of components

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Docket No. AUS9-2000-0629-US1

responsive to a power cycle; compare the current configuration information with the stored configuration information to form a comparison; and update the stored configuration information if a difference is present in the comparison.

12. The data processing system of claim 11, wherein the processor unit includes a set of processors.

13. The data processing system of claim 11, wherein the processor unit includes a single processor.

14. The data processing system of claim 11, wherein the bus system includes a primary bus and a secondary bus.

15. A network computing system for managing configuration information, the network computing system comprising:

storing means for storing the configuration information for a set of components in the network computing system to form stored configuration information;

obtaining means, responsive to a power cycle, for obtaining current configuration information from the set of components;

comparing means for comparing the current configuration information with the stored configuration information to form a comparison;

updating means for updating the stored configuration information if a difference is present in the comparison.

006101 5922960

Docket No. AUS9-2000-0629-US1

16. The network computing system of claim 15, wherein the network computing system is a system area network.

17. The network computing system of claim 15, wherein the storing means comprises:

second storing means for storing the configuration information at a node in the network computing system where the subnet manager resides.

18. The network computing system of claim 15, wherein the storing means comprises:

second storing means for storing configuration information associated with a component along with the component.

19. The network computing system of claim 15, wherein the stored configuration information is stored in one of a non-volatile random access memory, a hard disk drive, and an optical disk.

20. The network computing system of claim 15, wherein the set of components are a set of nodes.

21. The network computing system of claim 15, wherein the set of components are a set of devices within nodes.

22. A data processing system in a network computing system for managing configuration information comprising:

discovering means for discovering a component at a location on the network computing system;

determining means for determining whether the

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Docket No. AUS9-2000-0629-US1

component was previously in the location;

first configuring means for configuring the component using previously stored configuration information for the component if the component was previously in the location; and

second configuring means for configuring the component without the previously stored configuration information.

23. A data processing system in a network computing system for managing configuration information the network computing system comprising:

discovering means for discovering a component at a location on the network computing system;

first determining means for determining whether stored configuration information is present at the component;

reading means, responsive to the stored configuration information being present at the component, for reading the stored configuration information;

configuring means for configuring the stored configuration information;

second determining means for determining whether changes to a configuration of the component are present; and

updating means, responsive to changes being present, for updating the changes to the stored configuration information in the component.

24. The data processing system of claim 23, wherein the updating means comprises:

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Docket No. AUS9-2000-0629-US1

correcting means for correcting for conflicts in the configuration of the component using the stored configuration information to form changed configuration information;

saving means for saving the changed configuration information at the component.

25. A computer program product in a computer readable medium for use in a network computing system for managing configuration information for a set of components in a network computing system, the computer program product comprising:

first instructions for storing the configuration information for the set of components in the network computing system to form stored configuration information;

second instructions for responsive to a power cycle, obtaining current configuration information from the set of components;

third instructions for comparing the current configuration information with the stored configuration information to form a comparison;

fourth instructions for updating the stored configuration information if a difference is present in the comparison.

26. A computer program product in a computer readable medium for use in a network computing system for managing configuration information in the network computing system, the computer program product comprising:

first instructions for discovering a component at a

006101 5922960

Docket No. AUS9-2000-0629-US1

location on the network computing system;

second instructions for determining whether the component was previously in the location;

third instructions for configuring the component using previously stored configuration information for the component if the component was previously in the location; and

fourth instructions for configuring the component without the previously stored configuration information.

27. A computer program product in a computer readable medium for use in a network computing system for managing configuration information the network computing system, the computer program product comprising:

first instructions for discovering a component at a location on the network computing system;

second instructions for determining whether stored configuration information is present at the component;

third instructions for responsive to the stored configuration information being present at the component, reading the stored configuration information;

fourth instructions for configuring the stored configuration information;

fifth instructions for determining whether changes to a configuration of the component are present; and

sixth instructions for responsive to changes being present, updating the changes to the stored configuration information in the component.

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